

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

September 2019

A brief summary of current government consultations of potential interest to RSN members. This is not intended as an exhaustive list of all relevant consultations.

Developing a national food strategy: call for evidence – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Government is asking for ideas and evidence to help transform our food system. They want to hear ideas from anyone, including:

- Producers
- Practitioners
- interested citizens

They also want to hear from people in devolved administrations or abroad.

The responses will shape recommendations and actions for government to consider.

This National Food Strategy will apply to England only. The final report of the review is due in summer 2020.

This consultation closes on 25 October 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/developing-a-national-food-strategy-call-for-evidence>

Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s – Cabinet Office & Department of Health & Social Care

Government are seeking views on proposals to tackle the causes of preventable ill health in England. They state: “We know that our health is shaped by the environment in which we live, the choices we make, and the services we receive. We need to take action on each of these.”

This consultation closes on 14 October 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/advancing-our-health-prevention-in-the-2020s>

Fuel poverty strategy for England – Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Fuel poverty is defined in the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 as: a person [who] is a member of a household living on a lower income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost.

In 2014, the government introduced in legislation a fuel poverty target for England to improve as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C, by the end of 2030.

They are looking to update the fuel poverty strategy for England. This consultation has 2 aims:

- to publish an assessment of the implementation of the 2015 fuel poverty strategy so far
- to seek views on proposals to update the fuel poverty strategy

This consultation closes on 16 September 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fuel-poverty-strategy-for-england>

Electric vehicle chargepoints in residential and non-residential buildings – Department for Transport

Government are proposing to:

1. Alter building regulations for new:
 - residential buildings to include requirements for electric vehicle chargepoints
 - non-residential buildings to include requirements for electric vehicle chargepoint infrastructure
2. Introduce requirement for existing non-residential buildings to have electric vehicle chargepoints

This consultation closes on 7 October 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/electric-vehicle-chargepoints-in-residential-and-non-residential-buildings>

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017: call for evidence – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

The Homelessness Reduction Act is the most ambitious reform to homelessness legislation in decades. It is a key lever for reducing homelessness and helping to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it altogether.

This call for evidence seeks to gather evidence on:

- the impact the Act has had and the outcomes that are being achieved
- how has the Act changed the approach of local housing authorities and their partners to tackling homelessness and supporting those in need
- the experience of people approaching their local housing authority for help
- how the implementation of the Act has been resourced, including the level of new burdens funding to assist this
- what elements of the Act and processes are working well, and which might need adjustment

This consultation closes on 15 October 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/homelessness-reduction-act-2017-call-for-evidence>

A new deal for renting: resetting the balance of rights and responsibilities between landlords and tenants – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

The government states that it is committed to modernising the rented sector, and intends to introduce a new, fairer deal for both landlords and tenants.

On 15 April 2019, the government announced that it will put an end to so called 'no-fault' evictions by repealing section 21 of the Housing Act 1988. Under the new framework, a tenant cannot be evicted from their home without good reason. This is intended to provide tenants with more stability, protecting them from having to make frequent moves at short notice, and enabling them to put down roots and plan for the future.

The government also proposed to strengthen the section 8 eviction process, so landlords are able to regain their property should they wish to sell it or move into it themselves. This will provide a more secure legal framework and a more stable rental market for landlords to remain and invest in.

This consultation seeks views on how section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 has been used in the past, and the circumstances in which landlords should be able to regain possession once it has been abolished, including what changes may be necessary to the existing grounds for possession in Schedule 2 of the Housing Act 1988.

They are also inviting views on the implications of removing the ability of landlords to grant assured shorthold tenancies in the future, how the processing of repossession orders

through the courts could be improved, and whether the reforms should be extended to other types of landlords, most notably, to housing associations.

This consultation closes on 12 October 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/a-new-deal-for-renting-resetting-the-balance-of-rights-and-responsibilities-between-landlords-and-tenants>